

Appl. No. 09/875,294
Amendment dated December 31, 2003
Reply to Office Action of October 6, 2003

Remarks

Claims 25, 4-8, 10-12, 14-18 and 24 are pending in the application, with claim 25 being the independent claim. Claims 1-3, 9, 13 and 19-23 have been canceled.

Based on the present Amendment and the following Remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 24, 4-8, 10-13, 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,974,007 to Greve ("Greve") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,194,115 to Ramspeck et al. ("Ramspeck").

Claim 25 is the only independent claim, and includes the features of original claims 1-3 and 13. The Action argues that the features of claim 13 are disclosed in Greve. Reconsideration is respectfully requested. Claim 25 recites "advancing the web lengthwise along said path at a variable speed." In Greve, an adhesive 47 is applied to a web 46. Although Greve discloses a variable-speed drive for drums 11 and 12 to subject the filaments of the tow 5 to a increased or decreased stretching action, **the web 46 itself is not advanced at a variable speed**. In other words, the **drums** 11, 12 are driven at variable speeds to stretch tow 5, but the variable speed drums do not change the speed of advancement of the **web**.

Accordingly, Greve and Ramspeck fail to teach the features of claim 25, and thus, claim 25 is allowable over the cited art. Claims 4-8, 10-12, 17, 18 and 24 depend from claim 25 and are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Greve in view of Ramspeck, and further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,987,854 to Hall ("Hall"). Claims 14-16 depend from claim 25. Like Greve and Rampeck, Hall fails to teach that the web is advanced at a variable speed, as recited in claim 25. Accordingly, claim 14-16 are allowable as depending from an allowable claim.

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Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

A Notice of Allowance with claims 25, 4-8, 10-12, 14-18 and 24 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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